

further example, a specific color may be assigned to field 102 to indicate that a price in the field is a bid price. Preferably, a trader is able to specify the color assigned to each component of a trade. The  
5 fields, or symbols contained therein, may be continuously colored or may be shown in a chosen color when a mouse pointer is passed over each field or used to click on each field.

In order to bid for, offer to sell, buy,  
10 and/or sell an item through market cell 100, a trader may submit a trading command indicating the action to be taken using various approaches. For example, in preferred embodiments, a trader may submit the trading command using a command-line interface, by clicking on  
15 components of bid and offer 101, and/or using a graphical interface.

When using a command-line interface, a trading command may be entered in any non-graphical interface desired. For example, a trader may submit a  
20 trading command by pressing buttons on a keyboard. Likewise, a trader could use a voice recognition system to enter commands verbally, or a trader could use some combination of voice recognition, keyboard, and pointing device.

25 A trader may also indicate a desire to bid, offer, buy, and/or sell an item by clicking on different portions of a bid and offer 101 for that item in market cell 100. For example, if the trader clicks on bid price 102, the trader may indicate to submit a  
30 bid for the item. If the trader clicks on offer price 104, the trader may indicate to submit an offer for the item. If the trader clicks on bid size 106, the trader may submit a command to sell the item. And, if the

trader clicks on offer size 108, the trader may submit a command to buy the item.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention may allow a trader to instantly quote a two-sided market based on a pre-set spread amount as configured by the trader. For example, if the trader enters or clicks on bid price 102, the trader may indicate to submit a bid and offer order for the item, where the offer price 104 may be automatically generated from the bid price 102 and a pre-set spread amount as configured by the trader. If the trader enters or clicks on offer price 104, the trader may indicate to submit a bid and offer order for the item, where the bid price 102 may be automatically generated from the offer price 104 and a pre-set spread amount as configured by the trader.

Further, preferred embodiments of the present invention may allow a trader to use different levels of mouse button entries to initiate a trading command. That is, for flexibility, this invention may allow a trader to determine how many clicks on components of bid or offer 101 using a button of a mouse are required before the trader either bids for, offers to sell, buys, and/or sells an item corresponding to the market cell. For example, for maximum speed and slightly more risk, the trader may choose that a market be acted upon after a single click on a component of bid or offer 101. Likewise, a trader may choose to use a double click on a market before it is acted upon.

FIG. 2 illustrates one embodiment of a graphical interface for submitting one-sided trading commands. As shown, the graphical interface comprises a dialog window 200 with various buttons and entry

fields 202-245. Using these buttons and entry fields, a trader may submit a bid command, an offer command, a buy command, or a sell command for an item corresponding to a market cell 100. Preferably, each  
5 traded item uses a unique dialog window 200. Dialog window 200 may be opened automatically and/or manually before, during, and/or after a trade, and may allow a trader to submit a trade command at any time. The dialog window may be repositioned on a trader's display  
10 and/or fixed in place. The trader, preferably, will keep the window associated with a particular item below the market cell 100 for the same tradable item. The number of dialog windows 200 that can be kept open at any one time is preferably unlimited.

15 As shown in FIG. 2, dialog window 200 may comprise a variety of on-screen buttons and entry fields. Generally, a button, as displayed in box 200, may be "pushed" by placing a pointing device's pointer over the button and pressing a switch on the pointing  
20 device, as is commonly known in the art. At the center of window 200, a numeric keypad 202 may be displayed. The numeric keypad 202 may provide buttons for numbers zero through nine, and may contain buttons for numbers ten, twenty-five, fifty, and one hundred or any other  
25 suitable or desirable values. The numeric keypad 202 may also contain a plus button ("+"), a minus button ("-"), a decimal point button (("."), a backspace button ("BKS"), and a delete button ("DEL").

30 In addition to displaying a numeric keypad as described above, dialog window 200 may also provide a user with a buy button 204, a sell button 206, a cancel buys button 208, a cancel sells button 210, a bid button 212, an offer button 214, a cancel bids button